

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 082596
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 SNM-05 INSE-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:LARSENBLATT:MM
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
HA/ORM:JBROH-KAHN
EA/RA:FBENNETT
S/NM:RFSLUTZ
CDC/ATLANTA:DR. CASFY
INS/CO:JREBSAMEN (DRAFT-PHONE)

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-----051699 310114Z /64

O 310030Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 082596

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT:SCREENING OF HMONG REFUGEES

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REF:A. STATE 77448 B. STATE 73846 C. BANGKOK 6732 AND 8209

HONG KONG FOR DIDIR FELDMAN

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES SUGGESTIONS REF B AND HAS CONSULTED WITH DR. JOSEPH WESTERMEYER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WHO HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH THE HMONG IN LAOS AND THE UNITED STATES. WESTERMEYER INDICATES THAT POSITIVE URINALYSIS CAN INDICATE EITHER INFREQUENT, CASUAL, OR HABITUAL USE OF OPIUM. POSITIVE TEST RESULTS CAN EVEN OCCUR WHEN EXAMINEE HAS BEEN IN PRESENCE OF SOMEONE ELSE
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SMOKING OPIUM OR WHO MERELY PHYSICALLY HANDLED IT HIMSELF ON THE OTHER HAND, EVEN HABITUAL USER IS ABLE TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY WITHIN A WEEK OR TWO, THOUGH TEST RESULTS CAN CONTINUE TO BE POSITIVE FOR UP TO ANOTHER FEW WEEKS. WESTERMEYER, WHO CONTINUES TO SEE SOME HMONG AS GENERAL MEDICAL PATIENTS IN THE U.S., INDICATES THAT HE KNOWS OF NO INSTANCE IN WHICH OPIUM USE HAS OCCURRED IN THE U.S..

2. TO ENSURE THAT NO REFUGEE ADDICTED TO OPIUM IS ADMITTED TO THE U.S., THE FOLLOWING MEASURES (CLEARED BY INS/CO AND THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL IN ATLANTA) ARE TO BE APPLIED: ANY REPEAT ANY USE OF OPIUM, EVEN AS TEMPORARY PAIN-KILLER, CAN RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER U.S. PROGRAM AND THAT THIS WILL BE TESTED IN URINALYSIS. IT SHOULD ALSO BE MADE CLEAR THAT NO OPIUM - EVEN FOR MEDICINAL USE - CAN BE TAKEN TO U.S. OR PROCURED IN U.S. THIS WARNING SHOULD BE REPEATED AT TIME OF INS INTERVIEW WITH CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID ANY USE OF OPIUM IN ANY FORM (E.G., MORPHINE, CODEINE) WHICH WOULD SHOW UP POSITIVE.

B. URINALYSIS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PERFORMED FOR ALL HMONGOVER 18 WHO RECEIVE A-NUMBERS. AFTER BEING WARNED AGAINST OPIUM USAGE AT TIME OF INS INTERVIEW, REFUGEES SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN URINALYSIS TESTING UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FROM CAMP BUT AT LEAST FOUR WEEKS AFTER INS INTERVIEW AND THE WARNING TO ENSURE THAT ANY POSITIVE RESULTS CANNOT BE ASCRIBED TO MEDICINAL USE OR ACCIDENTAL CONTACT. TO AVOID POSSIBLE ERROR A POSITIVE RESULT SHOULD BE RE-TESTED A SECOND TIME AFTER AT LEAST FOUR WEEKS.

C. HMONG WHO SHOW UP AS POSITIVE ON RE-TEST SHOULD THEN BE INTERVIEWED BY PHYSICIAN WHO CAN DETERMINE IF REFUGEE CAN BE DENIED ENTRY AS A LEGALLY EXCLUDABLE DRUG ADDICT
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UNDER SECTION 212 (A) (5) OF INA. (A POSSIBLE RESOURCE IS DR. CHOMCHANH SOUDALY, FORMER DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL NARCOTICS DETOSIFICATION CENTER IN LAOS. HE IS NOW A REFUGEE IN THAILAND AT SRI CHIENGMAI. SEE STATE 081118 TO BANGKOK MARCH 29).

3. HMONG CITED REFTTEL.A (WHO HAD HIGH NARCOGRAMS) SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO ABOVE PROCEDURES AFTER WARNING AND FOUR-WEEK HIATUS OUTLINED IN ABOVE PROCEDURES.

4. WE WILL SHARE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE WITH ACVA. COOPER

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